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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the history of the American Academy of Physical Education from 1950 to 1970. The following areas are covered: the extent to which (a) the health and recreation professions were incorporated into academy functions; (b) the academy had worked jointly with other professional organizations on research, projects, and publications; (c) the academy influenced physical education and related areas through leadership and scholarly pursuits, academy issues, projects, and research; (d) the academy influenced the worldwide physical education profession through affiliation with other national and international organizations; (e) academy membership included persons in physical education, health, and recreation; (f) academy fellows participated in fulfilling the academy's purposes; (g) academy committees were composed of elected or appointed fellows who could best serve in that capacity; and (h) decision-making on academy business was completed only during the annual meeting. Recommendations are included which were formulated after examination of the results of the study. (PB)

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"HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 1950-1970"

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HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION: 1950-1970

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Members of the Southwest District, Professionals in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation it is a pleasure to be here today to "Share in Your Life." The American Academy of Physical Education represents an esteemed group of people who have and are committed to the pursuit of excellence in the professions of physical education, health, and recreation. For this reason, it was befitting to recognize and remember this cadre of leaders through the History of the American Academy of Physical Education from 1950 to 1970. Appreciation for the completion of this study is extended to Dr. N. P. Neilson; Academy President, Dr. Leona Holbrook; and Past-Presidents of the Academy.

The Academy's history was evidenced from an investigation of the Academy Archives and publications, and the personal files of Dr. N. P. Neilson. Facts were acquired, assembled, and analyzed for each Annual Academy Meeting. Pictorial records of Past-Presidents of the Academy were also collected and provided for viewing in the following slide series. The data were collected and tested according to eight hypotheses. The following is a brief discussion of these hypotheses, conclusions, and recommendations.

Hypothesis number one was concerned with the extent to which the related professions of health and recreation were incorporated into Academy functions. This was accomplished through the Academy's Purpose (5), affiliation and participation with various national and international organizations, and the con-

ferring of awards and citations.

The second hypothesis concerned the extent to which the Academy had worked jointly with other professional organizations on research, projects, and publications. Some of the meetings in which Academy Fellows participated included the World Health Organization, the International Federations for Physical Education, and the International Council for Sport and Physical Education. Joint Projects were conducted with the International Council of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; and the Encyclopedia Britannica Films. In 1953, the Academy contributed an article to the Journal of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (4). In 1951, the Academy published Professional Contributions in a "working agreement" with the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (2). Unfortunately this was not listed with the appropriate library publications. Then in 1968 The Academy Papers were published.

Hypothesis number three concerned the extent to which the Academy influenced physical education and related areas through leadership and scholarly pursuits, Academy issues, projects, and research conducted, presented, and published. The Academy assumed a leadership role by responding to requests from Austrailia in establishing a professional library, and from Africa and South America in acquiring professional literature. And, the Academy was supportive of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and to Lloyd O. Appleton for his client, Frank Lloyd, in a law suit concerning intercollegiate athletics. Also, the R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Lectures,

started in 1950, open-sessions of the Academy Meetings, and Academy publications provided other vehicles of influence upon the professions at large.

In the fourth hypothesis, there was concern with the extent to which the Academy influenced the physical education profession, worldwide, through affiliation with other national and international organizations. This was accomplished to the extent that ideas were exchanged with educators from foreign countries at Academy Dinners held in Helsinki, Rome, and Tokyo. Also, the Academy sent copies of Professional Contributions to Corresponding Fellows located throughout the world.

Hypothesis number five concerned the extent to which Academy membership included persons in physical education, health, and recreation. While membership was primarily composed of Fellows in the profession of physical education, there were also Active, Associate, and Corresponding Fellows from the related professions.

The extent to which Academy Fellows participated in fulfilling the General and Specific Purposes of the Academy during this twenty year period was the concern of hypothesis number six. Essentially, the General Purpose was met through the presentations made at the Academy's Professional Meetings, the Banquets, and the McKenzie Lectures. The Academy fulfilled its Specific Purposes by electing persons to membership who had and would continue to make significant contributions to physical education and the related professions. However, because Active Fellow membership could not exceed 100, the election of new members was limited. Papers were presented and published on areas in need of research, but there was only a minimal effort made for guidance and advice to stimulate needed research. All other Specific Purposes were ful-

filled by the Academy and on two occasions assistance was provided with the enactment of legal measures. These were accomplished with a brief letter of support concerning the Frank Lloyd case and a statement opposing the American Council of Education for concluding that military service be substituted for college physical education credit.

During 1950 to 1970, there was no indication of the Academy's effort to encourage competent persons to enter the profession and the conferring of awards and citations was limited only to persons known by Academy Fellows. Lastly, the suggestion to solicit nominees for membership from the larger profession was not implemented.

Hypothesis number seven concerned the extent to which Academy committees were composed of elected or appointed Fellows who could best serve in that capacity. Only members of Active Fellow status were elected or appointed to Academy Committees.

Finally, hypothesis number eight was concerned with the extent to which decision-making on Academy business was completed only during the Annual Meeting. Academy Officers and committee members transacted most business through correspondence and special meetings prior to the Annual Meeting. Many items of business, such as ratification of the Constitution and By-Laws, Awards and Citations recipients, nomination and election of candidates to membership, and nominations of Academy Officers were all conducted by a mail vote. It was at the Annual Business Meeting that Academy Fellows had an opportunity to summarize, discuss, recommend, and vote on activities reported by the Standing and President's Committees.

Based upon these hypotheses, it was concluded that the Academy was composed of world-renowned professionals in physical education, health education, recreation, and other related areas. However, on a national scale,

the 100 limit for Active Fellow membership comprised an extremely small percentage of the total number of persons in these related professions. Individually, Academy Fellows made many contributions to these related professions, but few were made by the Academy as a group. An example of this was the Academy's inability to reach agreement on a survey of "critical issues" conducted by David K. Brace in 1962 (3) The Academy appeared to have three main areas of concern. These were procedures for conducting business at the Annual Meeting, the implementation of Academy Purposes, and fellowship among its members. It was also apparent that the Academy preferred to philosophize rather than to take a scholarly position on issues relevant to physical education and the related professions.

The Academy's emphasis upon procedures was noted by the numerous committees formed during this 20 year period, the continual appointment of Academy Fellows as new members to various committees, and the constant revision of Committee Operating Codes and the Constitution and By-Laws. Eventually, the committees dissipated and progress on internal organization was slow. This was caused by a constant change of committee members, minimal follow-through on recommendations submitted, and the inability of the membership to reach concensus. However, by 1969, committee appointments were stablized, Committee Operating Codes were clearly defined, and the Constitution and By-Laws had been revised eight times.

An important aspect in the Academy's history was fellowship. Perhaps this was predominant because the Annual Meeting also afforded Academy Fellows an opportunity to exchange ideas on an informal basis, which in itself could be stimulating. The open-sessions of the Annual Meeting provided a sharing of this fellowship with persons from the larger professional body. Along

with fellowship, the Academy maintained a position on three specific issues: opposition to interscholastic competition for children, opposition to substituting military service for college physical education credit, and support for Frank Lloyd.

Upon investigating the Academy's history, the following recommendations were formulated. The President's Newsletters should be reported and published. Professional Contributions should be listed with the appropriate library index. A handbook should be printed and periodically revised to contain the Operating Codes for Standing Committees and specified President's Committees. The names of Academy Fellows attending the Annual Meeting should be recorded in the Official Minutes. Copies of Professional Contributions and The Academy Papers should be placed in the Archives. Investigations should be made for increasing the limit of Active Fellow membership and for allowing Emeriti Fellows the right to vote and participate actively in Academy projects. Academy Purposes to be accomplished should be specifically identified. Also, consideration should be given to designating the Nominating Committee as a Standing Committee. An abstract of the Academy's complete history, 1930 to 1970, should be published. The nominees for membership and for awards and citations should be sought from the larger profession of physical education, health, and recreation. And, as a highly esteemed professional organization, the Academy should list, discuss, and take a scholarly position on issues relevant to physical education and related professions.

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